

## REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending in the present application. Applicants have cancelled claims 11-15 without prejudice or disclaimer and have amended claims 1, 8 and 9. Support for the amendment to claims 1, 8 and 9 can be found in the specification on page 2, third full paragraph, page 3, third and fourth full paragraphs, page 4, seventh full paragraph to page 5, third full paragraph, and page 8, third full paragraph. No new matter has been added.

I. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 11-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Soldatos et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,398,102), Robins et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,115,295), and EPA 493916. Applicants have obviated these rejections by canceling claims 11-15 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants respectfully request that these rejections be withdrawn.

II. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

Claims 12 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. Applicants have obviated this rejection by canceling claims 12 and 15. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

III. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §101

Claims 12 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as allegedly being improper process claims. Applicants have obviated this rejection by canceling claims 12 and 15. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

### CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance.

Favorable consideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

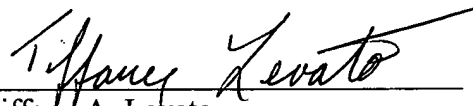
The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee due, or credit any overcharge, to  
Deposit Account No. 16-2500 to maintain the pendency of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

Proskauer Rose LLP

Date: February 27 2004

By

  
Tiffany A. Levato  
Attorney for Applicants  
Registration No. 50,160

Proskauer Rose LLP  
Patent Department  
1585 Broadway  
New York, NY 10036-8299  
Tel. (212) 969-3686 (direct)  
Fax (212) 969-2900